In the discussion of Mr. Ware's paper Mr. Albert Matthews remarked that while heretofore [2] the earliest known instance of the term "Indian summer" occurred in the Journal of Maj. Ebenezer Denny while at Le Bœuf, near the present city of Erie, under date of October 13, 1794, he could now quote an example earlier certainly by 7 years and possibly by 16 years. Mr. Matthews continues as follows:

In a letter dated "Germanflats, 17 janvier 1778," Crevecœur gives a "Description d'une Chute de Neige, Dans le Pays de Mohawks, sous le rapport qui interèsse le Cultivateur Américain," in which occurs the following passage:

"Les grandes pluies viennent enfin & remplissent les sources, les ruisseaux & les marais, pronostic infaillible; à cette chûte d'eau succède une forte gelée, qui nous amène le vent de nord-ouest; ce froid perçant jette un pont universel sur tous les endroits aquatiques, & prépare le terre à recevoir cette grande masse de neige qui doit bientôt suivre: les chemins auparavant impracticables, deviennent ouverts & faciles. Quelquefois après cette pluie, il arrive un intervalle de calme & de chaleur, appelé l'*Été Sauvage* ce qui l'indique, c'est la tranquillité de l'atmosphère, & une apparence générale de fumée.—Les approches de l'hiver sont douteuses jusqu' à cette époque: il vient vers la moitié de novembre, quoique souvent des neiges & des gelées passagères arrivent longtems auparavant." [3]

TRANSLATION.

At last come the heavy rains, filling the springs, the creeks (ruisseaux), and the marshes, an infallible sign; following this fall of water comes a severe frost brought to us by the northwest wind; this piercing cold builds a universal bridge over the watery places, and prepares the land for that great mass of snow which should soon follow it; the roads, which have been impassable heretofore, become open and convenient. Sometimes the rain is followed by an interval of calm and warmth which is called the *Indian summer* (l'Eté Sauvage); its characteristics are a tranquil atmosphere and a general smokiness. Up to this epoch the approaches of winter are doubtful; it arrives about the middle of November, although snows and brief freezes frequently occur long before that date.—C. A., jr.

"Germanflats" is the present Herkimer, N. Y. The author was so careless about certain matters that we can not be sure that his letters were actually written at the dates assigned, but the work from which the passage is cited was published in 1787.[4]

PROF. KITTREDGE'S THEORY.

While on this subject of Indian summer it may be of interest to refer to yet another effort to explain the origin of the term. Prof. George L. Kittredge [5] some years ago discussed the question and offered several suggestions. He thinks, for example, that it is too far-fetched to explain "Indian summer," as haziness which was originally due, in part, to brush and forest fires kindled by the American Indians in November.

Far more reasonable is the conjecture that the name alludes to the proverbial deceitfulness and treachery of the natives. * * * Or possibly we should think rather of their equally proverbial instability. Nothing is more fickle than the weather in Indian summer; though this is a quality that might be predicated of our weather in general. * * *

Or, finally, * * * it is conceivable that Indian summer was at first equivalent (among the earliest English immigrants) to "*fool's* summer." If so, we seem to have a parallel to the "Old Women's Summer" of the Germans, and it may be also to the "go-summer" of the Scots, if this is a corruption of "Goose summer," as scholars suppose. * * * Nothing impressed the settlers more than the folly of the red men in certain matters. * * * "Fool's summer," though not pretty, would be appropriate enough, and would range well with "fool's gold" for iron pyrites, "fool's parsley" for the poisonous lesser hemlock, and *ignis fatuus*, or "fool's fire," for the will-o'-the-wisp.

[2] See his paper in this REVIEW, January and February, 1902, 30: 19–28, 69–79.

[3] Lettres d'un Cultivateur Américain * * * depuis l'Année 1770 Jusqu'en 1786, par M. St. John de Crèvecœur, Traduites de l'Anglois, Paris, 1787, 1 294. The description fills pp. 289–314.—*A. Matthews.*

[4] In his Letters of an American Farmer, published in London in 1782, Crèvecœur does not mention the Indian summer. My attention was called to the passage in the text by Mr. Franklin B. Sanborn's paper on St. John de Crèvecœur, the American Farmer (1735–1813), printed in 2 Proceedings Massachusetts Historical Society, xx, 32–83. Mr. Sanborn shows that Crèvecœur was often inaccurate, remarking in one place: "But dates were never St. John's forte. He misstated the ages of his children by two years, and dedicated the French edition of his Lettres d'un Cultivateur Américain to Lafayette from Albany, 17 mai, 1781, though at that date he was in England" (p. 34, note: cf. pp. 36, 37, note, 45, 52–53, 73–74).—*A. Matthews.*

[5] *Kittredge, George Lyman.* The Old farmer and his almanack. Boston. Wm. Ware & Co., 1904. xiv, 403 p. illustr. 8°. N. B., pp. 191–198.

NEED FOR PAN AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL COOPERATION.

[In the General Report on the Final Act of the Second Pan American Scientific Congress, held in Washington, Dec. 27, 1915–Jan. 8, 1916, prepared by Mr. James Brown Scott, reporter general to the congress, we find the following commentaries on articles 5 and 6 of the resolutions and recommendations (pp. 59–61.]

Article 5 [recommends that] proper steps and measures be taken to bring about in the American Republics a *general use of the metric system* of weights and measures, in the press, magazines, newspapers, and periodicals, in educational and scientific work, in the industries, in commerce, in transportation, and in all the activities of the different governments.

To the citizens of the Latin-American Republics this article will seem well-nigh meaningless, for in the Western Hemisphere the English system of weights and measures obtains only in the United States and the English-speaking colonies, whereas the remaining American republics and the greater part of the Eastern Hemisphere use the metric system. Measures and weights are, however, an important part of the vocabulary in international relations. The English is not nearly so convenient and simple as the metric system, either in commercial or scientific work. The use of the English system in the United States is one of the important obstacles, in the opinion of the American delegates, to a closer commercial and scientific intercourse and cooperation between the United States and the other American Republics. Therefore, the adoption of the metric system by the United States would be a great benefit economically to the general public, and it is believed that it would not be without importance in promoting good will and mutual understanding. .

ARTICLE 6 [the congress] confirms the resolution recommended to the American Republics by the First Pan American Scientific Congress regarding *the installation of meteorological organizations* to serve as a basis for the establishment of a Pan American meteorological service, and expresses the desire that the Republics not yet possessing organized meteorological services establish such as soon as may be practicable.

As questions of international importance, the various topics under meteorology and seismology were considered in the Second Section of the congress. The needs especially of the organization of governmental services for continuous observation of atmospheric and terrestrial phenomena by means of common methods, intercomparable apparatus, and common units were dwelt upon. Much attention was given to the modes of organization and conduct of existing weather bureaus, to methods of forecasting weather, and to the increasing importance of the application of these as an aid to agriculture, navigation, and land transportation of perishable products. Much attention was given also to consideration of secular phenomena in meteorology and to their effects in the habitable as well as in the uninhabitable parts of the globe.

One of the most interesting topics considered as a by-product of the work of the Second Section was that of the desirability of forming an unofficial international association of meteorologists and seismologists for the mutual exchange of ideas and experience arising from these sciences. It was thought that such an organization might accomplish for meteorology and seismology results similar to those which have proved highly beneficial during the past two centuries in the [other] physical sciences.

It will be observed by persons familiar with the Pan American scientific congresses, and, indeed, it is expressly stated in the recommendation itself, that the

importance of the present recommendation has been hitherto recognized and called to the attention of the American countries by the First Pan American Congress; so that the recommendation in question is in reality a reaffirmation of the resolution of the First Pan American Scientific Congress, recommending as most desirable the establishment of official meteorological and seismological services in countries which have not yet established such agencies for the advancement of knowledge of our planet and for direct aid to agriculture, transportation, and sanitation. It is to be hoped that a recommendation urged by two scientific congresses of the Americas will be carried into effect, as it would not have been proposed in the first instance, had its advisability not been apparent, and it would not have been reaffirmed by the present congress unless it were considered, upon reflection, highly desirable. For this reason the congress, in making the recommendation, expressed the hope that the services would be established where they do not exist as soon as may be practicable.

SYMONS MEMORIAL MEDAL FOR 1912.

The Symons Memorial Gold Medal, which is awarded biennially by the Royal Meteorological Society of England, was presented to Prof. Cleveland Abbe at the annual general meeting on January 17, 1912. As this event in the history of the Weather Bureau has never been recorded by the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW, we reprint the official report of the proceedings as published in the Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society (London), 1912, **38**: 156–7.

PRESENTATION OF THE SYMONS MEMORIAL GOLD MEDAL.

The *President* [Dr. H. N. Dickson] said that it now fell to him to perform one of the most pleasant duties connected with his office, the presentation of the Symons Gold Medal. He would ask Prof. Cleveland Abbe to accept this Medal, but the Secretary would first read the Extract from the Minutes of the Council concerning this award.

The *Secretary* read the following extract from the minutes of the Council Meeting of November 15, 1911:

"Prof. Cleveland Abbe was born on December 3, 1838, at New York. He began active scientific work as a mathematical lecturer, but early in the sixties he joined the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. He was resident at Pulkowa, 1864–1866, which was then under the Directorship of the younger Struve. Abbe returned to the United States and became assistant at the U. S. Naval Observatory. In 1868 he was appointed Director of the observatory at Cincinnati, into which he infused new life. He joined the Weather Service of the United States in 1871, and it is in connection with that organization that his great life-work has been performed.[1]

"Apart from a large amount of official work, evidence of which may be found in the publications of the Weather Bureau, he is notable mainly for (1) his collection of papers on the *Mechanics of the Earth's Atmosphere*, which are today indispensable in work on the dynamics of meteorology. Volume I was issued in 1891 and Volume II in 1908;[2] (2) his *Treatise on Meteorological Apparatus and Methods* issued in 1888. This is a historical and practical account to which even the meteorologist of the twentieth century may turn for instruction; (3) his *Preparatory Studies for Deductive Methods in Storm and Weather Predictions*, issued in 1890; (4) his articles on Meteorology in the Encyclopædia Britannica, which are no doubt well known to all Fellows of the Society.

"Professor Abbe was one of the first to realize the importance of experimental investigations of atmospheric radiation, and it was largely due to his enterprise that the well-known researches of Hutchins and Pearson were undertaken. The importance of this work has been recently emphasized by its application to the explanation of the isothermal condition of the upper atmosphere. Professor Abbe has contributed, therefore, to instrumental, statistical, dynamical, and thermodynamical meteorology, and forecasting. He has, moreover, played throughout the part not only of an active contributor, but also of a leader who drew others into the battle and pointed out the paths along which attacks might be successful.

"He is a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, a member of the National Academy [of Sciences of the United States], and an Honorary Fellow of our own Society."

The *President* then said:

"Professor Abbe, we have listened to the statement of the Secretary setting forth the reasons which have led the Council to award you the Symons Gold Medal on this occasion. I do not think it is necessary or desirable to add to what has been already stated by any further expansion of the points which have been set forth. Every member of the Society is sensible of his indebtedness to the work which you have done in the past in connection with our science. I may perhaps be permitted to add on behalf of those members of the Society who have had the privilege of becoming personally acquainted with you, our sense of the very great debt we owe to you for personal encouragement. I remember the occasion some five and twenty years ago, on which I came, a very raw and budding meteorologist to Washington, and had the privilege of enjoying the hospitality which you so generously offered to those working in the subject; and I remember the strong stimulus which I received from you at that time. There are very many other meteorologists who must be conscious of owing to you a similar debt. It gives me very great pleasure, Sir, to offer you, on behalf of the Society, this Gold Medal."

Professor Cleveland Abbe said that it gave him the greatest pleasure to have his name associated with that of their dear friend and colleague, George James Symons. He could not express his emotion, but could only thank them most sincerely for the honour they had conferred on him in awarding him the Medal. This event will always be to him a stimulus to future labours. They are all brothers in science, and he was greatly touched to hear from the account read by the Secretary, that they had so closely watched his career and labours in a science of which they had not yet reached the end.

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[1] See in this connection the personal reminiscences by Professor Abbe, on page 206 of this issue of the REVIEW.

[2] This was his "Collection of translations. Third Collection"; the manuscript was ready for the printer in September, 1908; he finished the proofsheets in April, 1910, and the volume was issued by the Smithsonian Institution in June, 1910.—C. A., Jr.